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Reports of Cases argued and determined in the Surrogate's Court of the County of New York. By Alexander W. Bradford, L. L. D., Surrogate; Vol. II. New York: John S. Voorhies, Law Bookseller and Publisher. 1854; pp. 541.

It sometimes happens in the course of our editorial labors that a volume of Reports is presented of singular interest and excellence. Such is this volume, and the former one of Mr. Surrogate Bradford, of New York City. Called upon to administer the law in cases of the deepest interest, involving the nicest application of legal principles, and the clearest discrimination of facts, his task was one of great responsibility and difficulty. Questions of infancy, guardians, marriage, divorce, wills, decedents' accounts, heirs, creditors, distribution, next of kin, &c., interest perhaps, nearly every man in a well regulated and prosperous community, if, as is said, all personal property passes through the Orphans' and Surrogates' Courts once in thirty years.

Mr. Bradford's first volume was the first volume of Surrogate Reports ever published in America, and Mr. Bradford himself is, we believe, the first Surrogate elected by the people, that ever sat in a New York Court. His field is, therefore, broad and new, and he could gather from it any harvest that might spring up, and that he had talent to appropriate, garner and winnow into grain. It is pleasant to know that these suggestions seem to have occurred to the reporter. The mode of reporting is excellent. All extraneous matters are carefully weeded out. The arguments of counsel, so often disregarded by reporters, are here, where necessary, given with the point in dispute, and its cluster of authorities. No attempt is made by printing entire briefs to swell the magnitude of the case, and thus increase the cost of the volume, without adding to its real worth. An earnest desire seems to have guided the Surrogate in his selections of cases, to avoid all that were unimportant, useless or involved nothing new in principle or in application of established law—hence the volume is wholly free from the fault so common in many of our state reports, of containing cases, the points in which have not been seriously disputed for generations, a fault by no means always to be charged to the reporter, but to the rule that obliges him to print all that has been decided by the Court. It has seldom been our pleasure to read a volume of Reports such as Mr. Bradford's, the subject matter and the execution of which both demand and have an approbation merited equally by worth and modesty.